

## SAMUEL BARBER QUIZ

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

When was Samuel Barber born and where?

Did his parents want him to be a musician? Yes No

Did he have family members who served as musical influences? If so, who were they?

What music school did Barber attend, and how old was he when he enrolled?

He was a fine pianist and singer. True False

Did he follow the path of his contemporaries by writing music that was modern and difficult to understand?

Did Barber compose music with ease, or did he work over pieces for a long time?

Whose poetry did Barber set for *Sure on this Shining Night*, and other works?

Describe your reaction to hearing this song:

How did *Sure on this Shining Night* get Barber out of a jam on one occasion?

Upon whose poetry are the *Hermit Songs* based?

Describe the mood of *Heavenly Banquet*. Why do you think that Barber set this poem with the use of dotted rhythms and piano accompaniment that bounces from high to low?

Describe the mood of *The Crucifixion*. How does that high tritone make you feel?

In *The Monk and His Cat*, describe how the music changes at the words: “You rejoice when your claws entrap a mouse; I rejoice when my mind fathoms a problem.”

Just as we can change the tones of our speaking voices to show happiness, anger, pleading, sadness, etc, a singer can do the same thing. How does Leontyne Price’s voice change when she sings about Pangur?

Describe the mood of *Desire for Hermitage*. How does Barber paint the final words: “Alone I came into the world - alone I shall go from it.”

Please rank the *Excursions* from favorite (#1) to least favorite (#4) and explain why.

1. Movement \_\_\_\_\_
2. Movement \_\_\_\_\_
3. Movement \_\_\_\_\_
4. Movement \_\_\_\_\_

Why this ranking?

Where was Barber stationed in WWII?

Why were piano duets so popular in the 1800s?

Describe your reactions to *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* as you listened to it.

Have you ever heard Barber's *Adagio for Strings*? Yes No

What was your reaction upon hearing this work?

**BONUS POINTS:**

You can earn five points per sentence (for an extra 20 points) if you will take four words from the glossary (preferably words you didn't know) and use them in a sentence:

1.

2.

3.

4.

